



# Big South Fork Visitor Guide

2005

The official newspaper of  
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area



## Inside

Eastern National	page 2
Special Events 2005	page 2
Welcome Message from the Superintendent	page 3
Make Your First Stop Here	page 3
Emergency Numbers	page 3
Campground Reservations	page 4
Bandy Creek and Blue Heron Campground Maps	page 4
General Information	page 5
Hunting Seasons	page 5
Parks on the Internet	page 5
Spring Planting Day	page 6
Astronomy Programs	page 6
Storytelling Festival	page 6
Fighting Fire with Fire in BSF	page 7
Black Bear Management	page 8
Hog Hunting in BSF	page 8
Threatened and Endangered Species	page 9
BSF Completes General Management Plan	page 9
Resource Management Hot Line	page 9
Putting the Conserve back into Conservation	page 9
Beauty in Motion - Turkey Vulture	page 10
The Big Leaf Trees	page 10
Trails Less Traveled	page 11
Back Road Driving	page 11
Hey Kids, Be a Junior Ranger	page 11
Historic Rugby	page 12
Friends of the Big South Fork	page 12



# 2005 Special Events and Program Calendar

## Spring Planting Festival

May 14 - Spring Planting Day- 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Join in a celebration of spring from the late 1800s through the early 1900s. Demonstrations of horse and mule drawn equipment, plowing, planting, dulcimer music, farm animals and tasks of the homemaker will be going on throughout the day.

### Astronomy

May 14 - Solar Viewing - 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. weather permitting Bandy Creek Visitor Center.  
May 14 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:00 p.m. Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.  
July 30- Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:00 p.m. Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee.  
October 1- Astronomy - Bandy Creek  
Other Astronomy Programs will be offered at Obed Wild and Scenic River (423) 346-6294.

**National Trails Day - June 4** . Volunteers will be working throughout the park on hiking, biking, horse and multiple-use trails. National Trails Day is held each year throughout the United States. Thousands of volunteers participate in work projects in national areas, parks and forests. If you would like to volunteer, Contact Wally Linder for further information at (423)569-2404 ext. 321.

### Storytelling Festival

**September 17 - Dulcimer Workshop**  
Bring your own dulcimer and learn to play a tune. Two beginners' sessions will be held beginning 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. A limited number of dulcimers will be on hand for the public's use. Please sign up in advance for this workshop by calling (423) 286-7275.

### Storytelling Festival Craft Workshops

Learn about some of our old time crafts of the region through classes and demonstrations. Crafts offered may include tatting (old time lace making), quilting, wood carving, soap making, survival skills and basket making. Class participants will be asked for a donation to assist with class materials and instructor fees. Sign up for classes will be done in advance. Please call Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286 -7275 to check about classes offered and to sign up with your name and address to reserve a place in a class. Each class will be a minimum of 4 hours in length. Classes will be scheduled throughout the day beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m.

### Haunting in the Hills Storytelling and Evening Presentations

3:00 p.m. Special Local Tellers  
5:00 p.m. Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club Concert  
6:30 p.m. Bluegrass Music  
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Haunting in the Hills Storytelling

### Cumberland Heritage Month

**October Saturdays at Blue Heron Mining Community** – Enjoy a different cultural heritage activity each week. Demonstrations and presentations include storytelling, woodworking, natural dyes, spinning, old timey toys, dulcimer music, pioneer history, coal mining displays. Times and schedules will be announced for each Saturday in October.

### All events are Eastern Time All Programs are Subject to Change

Contact Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 (PARK), the Stearns Depot Visitor Center (606) 376-5073 or the Blue Heron Interpretive Center (606) 376-3787 for program details. Also see page 6 for more information about the special events.



If you are looking for information and unique items concerning Big South Fork, check out the bookstores located at Bandy Creek and the new Stearns Depot Visitor Center. The bookstores are operated by Eastern National, a non-profit cooperating association founded in 1947 and authorized by Congress to work with America's National Parks and other public trusts. The mission of Eastern National is to provide quality educational and interpretive products to the public.

Eastern provides a variety of unique items that will enhance your visit. Items offered for sale include maps, trail guides, books of local interest and unique craft items. By purchasing an item from the bookstore, you are supporting Big South Fork. Eastern returns a percentage of its profits to use for promoting the historical, scientific and conservation activities of the National Park Service. Among other projects, these donations are used to fund publications such as this newspaper. Membership in Eastern National entitles you to a discount on merchandise and helps support the programs of the National Park Service. For more information about Eastern National or to become a member, visit [www.EasternNational.org](http://www.EasternNational.org).

Any item you see in our bookstore can be ordered by mail, by telephone or by visiting the Eastern National web site at <http://www.eparks.com/eparks/> and then selecting Big South Fork NR&RA. If ordering by mail, you may use a personal check made payable to "Eastern National" or you may use a credit or debit card when ordering by phone. All items are subject to tax, shipping and handling charges that apply. Call (423) 286-7275 or write to Eastern National Bookstore, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, Tennessee 37841.

Below are some popular items from the bookstore.

National Geographic, Big South Fork Trail Map by Trails Illustrated - a large scale, topographic map of the entire system of designated hiking, horse and mountain bike trails. Waterproof and tear resistant. \$9.95

Hiking the Big South Fork - a complete guide to hiking trails in Big South Fork and selected trails in the adjoining Daniel Boone National Forest and Pickett State Park and Forest. Deaver, Smith and Duncan \$14.95

On The Cover: Top left: O&W Bridge. Top right: Big South Fork River with canoers. Middle left: Charit Creek Lodge cabin. Bottom left: mule team and equipment of Koy Flowers at Spring Planting Day 2004. All photographs courtesy of the National Park Service.

100 Trails of the Big South Fork - as the title implies, a trail guide with accurate descriptions of horse, hiking and bike trails in Big South Fork. Manning and Jamieson \$16.95

Exploring the Big South Fork - a trail and visitors guide to horse, hiking and mountain biking trails and the many activities at Big South Fork. Campbell and Campbell \$16.95

A Year in the Big South Fork - a wonderful, photographic presentation depicting the beauty of Big South Fork. Summers \$9.95

Natural Arches of the Big South Fork - an arch hunter's delight, a guide to the most accessible arches in the area. McDade \$12.95

Big South Fork Children's Guide and Coloring Book - an excellent way to introduce children to the wonders of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Duncan \$2.50

New items:

South Fork Country - an excellent book dealing with the early history of the Big South Fork River and the region around it. Perry \$21.95

Folk life along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River - an in-depth look at the people and culture that are unique to the Cumberland Plateau. Howell \$30.50.



Printing of this publication has been made possible by Eastern National.



# Welcome from the Superintendent

Welcome to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

This year marks a new beginning for Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (NRRA). The park's first General Management Plan has been finalized and approved. Based on the direction provided, the park will now be managed in such a way as to provide for the highest degree of natural and cultural resource protection while assuring the development of recreational opportunities which will benefit park visitors, neighbors and partners.

Congress established Big South Fork NRRA in 1974 to provide recreational opportunities and to preserve and protect its resources. Big South Fork belongs to the American people and is administered by the National Park Service to both protect those resources and to provide for an array of healthful outdoor recreational activities.

The staff of Big South Fork NRRA remains committed to the goals of resource protection and quality visitor service. Together with our many park partners and neighbors we will be striving to find realistic, innovative approaches to solving the challenges we face and meeting the goals we have set.

You are our valued guest, so please let us know if you have concerns or comments. We hope that you will explore the park, enjoy the area, have fun, and return often.

Sincerely,

Reed E. Detring

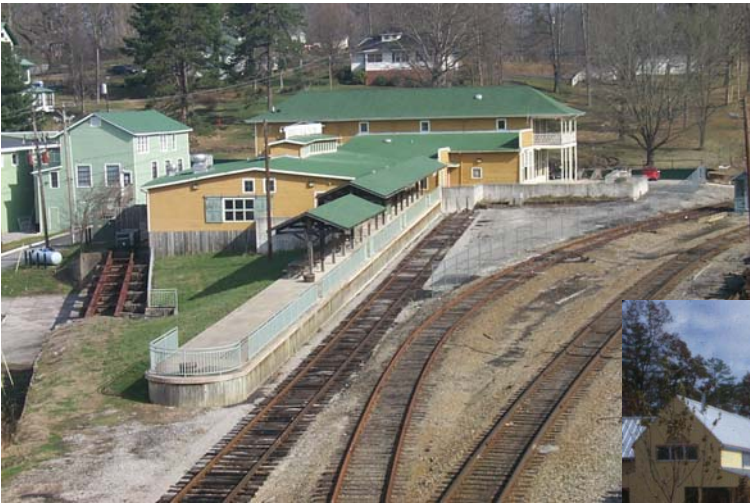
## Make Your First Stop Here

Whether you are a first time visitor or a regular user of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, your first stop should be at one of the park's two visitor centers. A quick stop at the visitor center can help you get the most out of your visit.

Park staff at Bandy Creek Visitor Center in Tennessee and the Stearns Depot Visitor Center in Kentucky can provide information on a wide range of recreation options and park information. In addition to providing information on Big South Fork, park rangers can provide information about the surrounding area, including state parks and forests, area attractions and federal lands.

At the visitor centers, one has access to both free information, as well as maps and guide books available for purchase. Each visitor center has a sales area operated by Eastern National, a non-profit cooperating association dedicated to providing educational materials to the public and supporting the programs of the National Park Service. A percentage of each purchase is donated to the park to support local activities. The visitor centers also issue backcountry camping permits, Golden Age and Golden Access Passports and the National Park Pass.

A stop at the visitor center can make your visit more enjoyable, safer, and maximize your time to allow you to get the most from a truly outstanding area. For more information you may call the Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 or the Stearns Depot Visitor Center at (606) 376-5073.



Stearns Depot Visitor Center in Kentucky offers park information and Eastern National bookstore. NPS photo.



Bandy Creek Vistor Center (building on the right) offers visitor information, Eastern National bookstore and also sells ice. NPS photo.

## Emergency Numbers

When emergency assistance is needed, dial 911 or:

- Tennessee**  
**Bandy Creek Visitor Center**  
(423) 286-7275 (PARK) - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Big South Fork NRRA**  
**Resource Protection Hotline** - (423) 569 2404 ext 505. Also see page 9.
- Scott County Hospital**, Highway 27, Oneida, TN (423) 569-8521
- Scott County Ambulance**, Oneida, TN (423) 569-6000
- Scott County Sheriff**  
Huntsville, TN  
(423) 663-2245
- Jamestown Regional Medical Center**  
W. Central Avenue, Jamestown, TN  
(931) 879-8171
- Fentress County Ambulance**  
(931) 879-8147
- Fentress County Sheriff**  
Jamestown, TN  
(931) 879-8142
- Kentucky**  
**Stearns Depot Visitor Center**  
(606) 376-5073. During train season 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Blue Heron Interpretive Center**  
(606) 376-3787
- McCreary County Ambulance**  
(606) 376-5062
- McCreary County Sheriff**  
(606) 376-2322

# Campgrounds

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area offers three campgrounds: Bandy Creek, Blue Heron, and Alum Ford. Bandy Creek Campground is located in the Tennessee portion of the park; Blue Heron and Alum Ford campgrounds are located in Kentucky.

## Bandy Creek Campground

Bandy Creek Campground is open year round. Sites may be reserved May 1 through October 31 by calling Spherix, Inc. at 1-800-365-2267 code 244. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites. It is always a good idea, however, to call the Bandy Creek Campground at (423) 286-8368 before coming. The campground does fill up during holidays, special events, weekends and the whole month of October. Check-in for the campground is at the entrance station kiosk.

The Bandy Creek Campground pool will be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day in 2005. Check at the campground entrance kiosk or at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center for a schedule of the times and days the pool will be open.

From November 1 through March 31, campsites are only taken on a first-come, first-served basis. During this time campers self register by filling out an envelope from the entrance station, picking their site and then placing the fee into the provided envelope. Drop the envelope into the fee collection box at the campground entrance station.

Areas B, C and D offer 98 sites which have electric/water hookups. Area A offers 49 tent sites. Two sites in area D are accessible to mobility-impaired visitors. In the group area, E-1 is also accessible. Restroom facilities are also accessible in these areas.

Bandy Creek sites in areas B, C, and D are \$20.00 for water/electric hookups per night and \$17.00 for tents per night in Area A. Although Area A has no electrical hook-ups, RVs, pop-ups, and horse trailers are permitted in sites A1 – A12. Sites A13 – A49 are restricted for tents only. Holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports are entitled to a 50% discount for campsites.

Bandy Creek Group Area E-1 and E-2 are for large groups of 25 or more. E-1 offers 19 individual sites and E-2 offers 16 individual sites. These sites do not have electric/water hookups. The group areas offer a covered pavilion with electric/water and cooking area. A fire ring for campfires is available. Separate bathhouses for each area offer hot showers. The cost is \$75.00 minimum

charge per night for up to 25 persons, plus \$3.00 for each additional person. Reservations can be made for the group camp April 1 through November 15 by calling 1-800-365-2267 code 244.

## Blue Heron

Blue Heron Campground sites may be reserved from May 1 through October 31 by calling Spherix, Inc. at 1-800-365-2267 code 244. Blue Heron is closed for the winter season.

Blue Heron offers 45 sites, with one site designated as accessible to mobility impaired individuals. Restroom facilities are also accessible. There is a fire ring and a dump station provided. Sites are \$15.00 per night with water/electric hookups. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites. For additional information call (606) 376-2611.

## Alum Ford

Alum Ford is a primitive campground and offers six campsites. There are no restroom facilities or water located at this area. The fee is \$5.00 per night. For additional information call (606) 376-2611. Alum Ford also has a boat ramp. Fees for the boat area are \$3.00 per day.

## Bandy Creek Pool Re-opens for Summer 2005

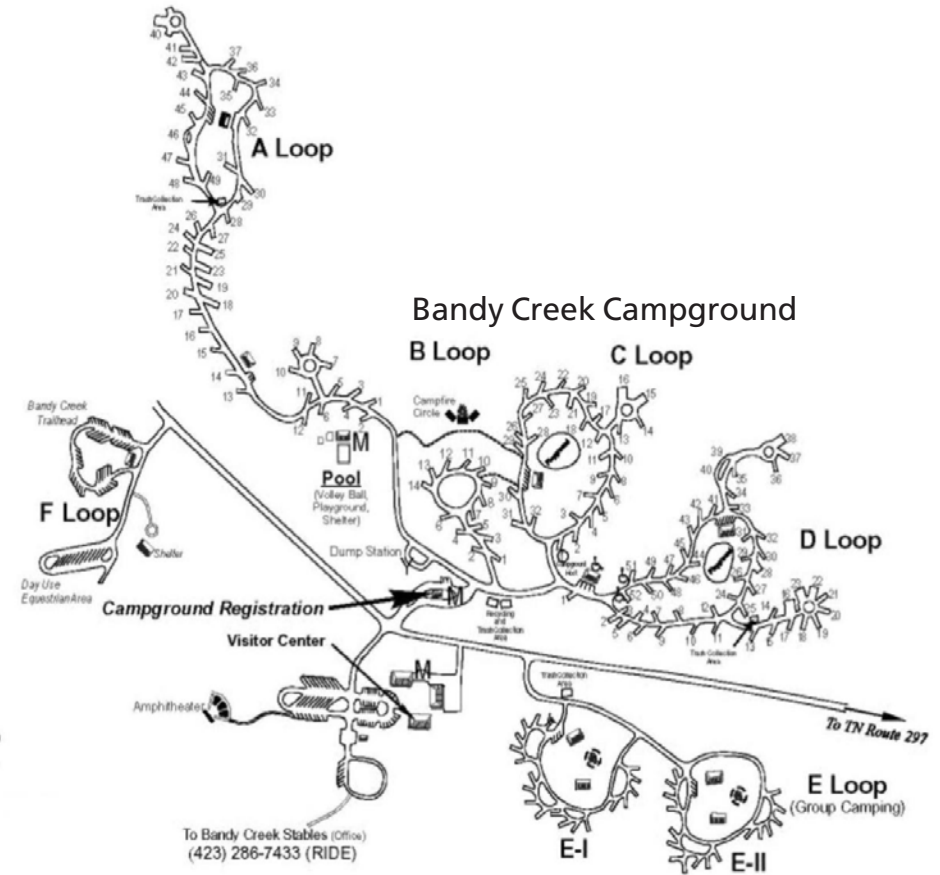
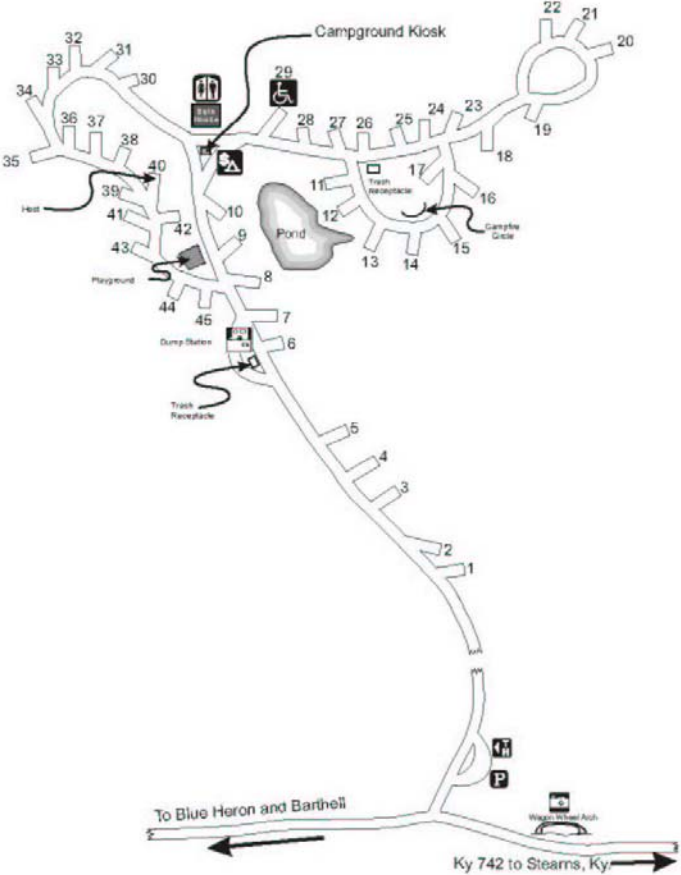
After being closed for the 2004 season, the Bandy Creek Pool will be open during the 2005 summer season from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend. Check at the visitor center or campground kiosk for the pool schedule of times and days of operation.

	Regular Rate*	Discount Rate*
Individual	\$2.00	\$1.00
Family	\$6.00	\$3.00
Annual Pool Pass (family)	\$35.00	\$17.50
Annual Pool Pass (individual)	\$20.00	\$10.00

Campers pay a one-time fee and receive a pool pass that is valid for the entire duration of their camping stay. Non-campers pay fees on a daily basis.

\*Holders of the Golden Age/Access Passport only pay half the fee. Passport holders must have their card with them in order to receive the discount.

## Blue Heron Campground





# General Information

## Visitor Centers

Tennessee - Bandy Creek Visitor Center (423) 286 -7275 (PARK).  
Kentucky - Stearns Depot Visitor Center (606) 376-5073.  
Kentucky - Blue Heron (606) 376-3787.

## Accessibility

### Bandy Creek Visitor Center

The visitor center and its restrooms are accessible to mobility impaired visitors. One or more rangers are trained, to some degree, in sign language. Large print brochures are available on request.

### Stearns Depot Visitor Center

The visitor center and restrooms are accessible.

## Campgrounds

Bandy Creek and Blue Heron Campgrounds have designated mobility impaired accessible sites for families and groups. Restroom facilities are also accessible. Water and electrical hook-ups are available at both campgrounds also. Alum Ford in Kentucky is also accessible, but restrooms are primitive and there is no water hook-ups.

## Overlooks and River Access

East Rim and Honey Creek Overlooks in Tennessee and the Devils Jump Overlook in Kentucky are accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. Leatherwood Ford River Access offers accessible trails and restrooms.

## Blue Heron/Mine 18

The scenic train ride into Blue Heron is fully accessible. Blue Heron offers accessible restrooms and is partially accessible to individuals with mobility impairments (some steep grades and steps exist).

## Backcountry Camping

Backcountry camping is allowed in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. There are no designated campsites, but there are rules that tell you where you can and cannot camp. Check at the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at Blue Heron for more information. **Backcountry permits are required** to camp in the backcountry overnight.

Permit fees are as follows:

1 to 6 people	\$5.00
7 - 12 persons	\$10.00
13 - 18 persons	\$15.00
19 - 24 persons	\$20.00
25 - 30 persons	\$25.00

A yearly permit is available for \$50.00. In addition to the visitor centers, please see the following list for authorized backcountry permit venders. Please contact (423) 286-8368 for more information. Permits are checked by rangers and are necessary when emergencies arise should a ranger need to contact you.

## Tennessee Venders

Bandy Creek Stables	(423) 286-7433
Big John's (Marathon Gas)	(423) 569-9004
Big South Fork Motor Lodge	(931) 879-4230
Big South Fork Regional V. C.	(423) 663-4556

Country Store	(423) 569-5010
Rugby Commissary	(423) 628-5166
R & M Brooks and Son	(423) 628-2533
Buckhorn	(423) 569-9452
Stop N Go Market Elgin	(423) 627-4100
Willie Lee's General Store	(931) 879-6987
Big John's #2 (Exxon Gas)	(423) 569-6122
Express Market & Deli	(931) 879-8132
Allardt Food Mart	(931) 879-8051
Cherokee Trail	(931) 879-0895
Uncle Dale's Trading Post	(423)569-1544

## Kentucky Venders

Fastway BP	(606)376-2364
Big M's Discount	(606) 376-8500
Sheltowee Trace Outfitters	(606) 526-7238
One Stop Shell	(606) 376-9200
Roger New Grocery	(606) 376-2579
Poor Boy's General Store	(606)376-2151

## River Information

The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River is a free flowing river. Sections of the river are calm enough for beginners while other parts are more challenging and have exciting whitewater. Peak times for river use are in the spring and sometimes late fall or winter. There is only one commercial company which provides equipment and trips for canoeing and rafting the river. If you are planning on embarking on the river with your own equipment and expertise, please check in at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center to file a trip plan, register for overnight river trips, and obtain information that will help you have a safe trip.

## Permitted Outfitters

### Sheltowee Trace Outfitters

P.O. Box 1060  
Whitley City, Kentucky 42653  
1-800-541- RAFT  
(606) 376-5567  
**Southeast Pack Trips, Inc.**  
299 Dewey Burke Road  
Jamestown, Tennessee 38556  
(931) 879-2260

## Safety Facts

To help you enjoy your trip to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, be aware of some safety precautions:  
(1) There are poisonous snakes (copperheads and timber rattlesnakes), ticks, chiggers, and poison ivy found in this area. Be cautious as you hike the trails or use the backcountry. Always use a flashlight when walking at night to avoid stepping on any snake.  
(2) Plan to leave information about your trip with someone at home.  
(3) Backcountry camping permits are required. These provide information to park rangers in case of emergencies. File a trip report with rangers at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center, Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at any of the venders mentioned in the list above.  
(4) Store all food, food containers and coolers out of reach from wildlife. A copy of the food storage regulations can be obtained from the visitor centers or the campground kiosks.  
(5) Are you concerned about driving up and down the steep hills? Your vehicle will perform more efficiently if you use a lower gear while going down steep grades. Consequently, you won't need to use the brakes as often and they are less likely to overheat and burn. Here's to fresher air for everybody!

## Lost and Found

Lost items may be reported to rangers at the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at Blue Heron Mining Community. A file will be made describing the item and where it was lost. Items that have been found should be turned in at the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at Blue Heron.

## Concessionaires

Bandy Creek Stables - (423) 286-7433  
Big South Fork Scenic Railway - (800) GO-ALONG  
Charit Creek Lodge - (865) 429-5704  
Eastern National - (423) 286-7275  
Station Camp Equestrian Area - (423) 569-3321  
Bear Creek Equestrian Area- (423) 569-3321

## Hunting Seasons

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area does allow hunting during regular state seasons. Check with the visitor centers or at Blue Heron for maps of the safety (no hunting) zones and regulations.

## Kentucky Big Game - Deer

Deer Archery - Zone 1-4: Third Saturday in September through third Monday in January.  
Muzzleloader - Zone 1-4: Two consecutive days beginning the the fourth Saturday in October and seven days beginning second Saturday in December.  
Modern Gun Deer - Zones 1-2: 16 consecutive days, beginning the second Saturday in November. Zones 3-4: 10 consecutive days, beginning the second Saturday in November.  
Youth Hunt - Zones 1-4: Two consecutive days beginning the third Saturday in October.  
Boar - Wild hogs may be taken during open deer season and during the extended hog season.  
For exact dates, contact Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 (502)564-4336. Website: [www.fw.ky.gov](http://www.fw.ky.gov).

## Tennessee Big Game Hunting Seasons

Permanent Opening Dates  
Quail and Rabbit - Second Saturday in November.  
Squirrel - Fourth Saturday in August.  
Deer/Archery - Last Saturday in September.  
Deer/Gun - Saturday before Thanksgiving.  
Deer/Juvenile only - First Saturday and Sunday in November.  
Boar - Wild hogs may be taken during open deer season and during the extended hog season.  
For exact dates please contact Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Region III, 216 East Penfield, Crossville, Tennessee 38555, (931) 484-9571 or 1-800-262-6704 in Tennessee. Website: [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org).  
Check Kentucky and Tennessee hunting guides for Small Game Seasons.

## Parks on the Internet

Most National Park areas have a web page, and camping reservations for many parks may be done on line as well. To find more information about camping and park facilities, special events and programs that each National Park Service area has to offer, use [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area page may be directly accessed through [www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso).





# Thirteenth Annual Haunting in the "Hills" Storytelling Festival

September 17, 2005

Big South Fork NRA - Bandy Creek Field

10:00 am	Folk Art Workshops and Demonstrations
1:00 pm	Family Oriented Storytelling
3:00 pm	Special Local Tellers
5:00 pm	Dulcimer Concert
6:30 pm	Blue Grass Music
8:00 pm	Ghost Stories guaranteed to thrill and chill listeners of all ages.

Featured Tellers

Elizabeth Rose	Lloyd Arneach	Cynthia Changaris	Pat Mendoza
----------------	---------------	-------------------	-------------

Come join us for a full day of fun and activities.

Free and open to the public.

For further information contact Big South Fork Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275

## Spring Chores Turned Into Traditional Arts Spring Planting Day Celebration



Demonstrations by volunteers included soap making by Belinda Lindroos, music by the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club, paling fence making by Sam Perry, , and wagon rides were provided by Jim and Kathy Pinkston and Marlene and Dennis Leamon. Farm animals were on hand to the delight of many visitors young and old. NPS photos.

### By Sue H. Duncan, Park Ranger Interpretation

The time of the year is spring. It is a time for new beginnings and growth. Mountain families begin their planning for crops, vegetable gardens and live-stock production. This production will sustain a family through the rest of the year.

The early families who settled the Big South Fork area depended on their ability to successfully raise animals, crops, and gardens to feed themselves. Most of the farming that occurred here was truly subsistence farming. The family often consumed the entire production of the garden. There was continued use of wild plant and animal foods, but the "kitchen garden" was vital to a sustainable food supply. This tradition continues with many families even today. It is not uncommon for local residents to have large gardens that provide a substantial amount of food.

Along with planning for their gardens and crops, families had a number of annual spring "chores" that were performed --spring cleaning and airing out of the house and bed linens, repairing paling fences, livestock care and animal husbandry, and mending and making clothing for the spring and summer seasons. Various crafts and forgotten arts of today were skills of yesterday -- skills needed for survival in the area we now call the Big South Fork, Cumberland Mountains or Appalachia.

In celebration of these skills and traditions of spring, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area will be hosting its Fifth Annual Spring Planting Day on Saturday, May 14, 2005. Craftspersons will be demonstrating forgotten arts such as blacksmithing, basket making, hand spinning, weaving, woodcarving, chair caning, soap making, garden herb lore and use, and paling fence making. Displays of women's life, antique farm tools, farm animals and old-timey toys will delight young and old alike. Toe-tapping tunes of mountain dulcimer music will be performed by the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club throughout the day. Plowing and planting with mules and horses will be taking place at the Lora Blevins field. Come join in our celebration of spring and traditional mountain ways.

The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Check with the Bandy Creek Visitor Center for the location and more information about this event.



Volunteer Cliff Thacker shares his skills of blacksmithing while Dorairene Henry demonstrates chair caning at Spring Planting Day. National Park Service photos.

## Big Dark Skies at the Big South Fork

By Paul Lewis

I have been coming to the Big South Fork for the past 15 years in order to get away from the ever-advancing light pollution in our skies. I often think how many city kids will grow up and never enjoy the splendor of the Milky Way as it gently meanders across our summer sky. The occasional meteor streaking across the sky is always a crowd pleaser. It's not just these kids missing all the beautiful vistas the heavens have to offer. How many adults can remember back to a time when they peered into a pitch-black night littered with stars and clusters? I do, and I would love to have that experience more often than I am able to. I can't think of a more accommodating location than the Bandy Creek Visitor Center parking lot. Although there is some light pollution encroaching from the east and a bit from the southwest, we still have a pretty darn good sky at Bandy Creek.

This summer, we will investigate the use of binoculars for locating a few star clusters. Star clusters, both open and globular, as well as some of the rich star fields of the Milky Way, offer some challenges for the binocular observer. We will have our telescopes on hand for the more powerful views, but binoculars are a must for any observer, and we will share some of our practices with those who are interested. So be sure to bring your binoculars to the observations. I always carry a few pair with me.

We will concentrate our planetary observations on Jupiter in May and June. Mars becomes the centerpiece planetary object beginning late August and will be at opposition (opposite Earth from the Sun and closest to us) this year in early November. Although not quite as photogenic as the opposition of 2003, Mars will be a pleasure to share through our telescopes.

Meteor showers are always thrilling, but the moon will intrude on our efforts this year for both the Perseids in August and especially the Leonids in November. Don't give up completely on the Perseids, as the moon is near first quarter and sets around midnight or about the time the radiant (the point in the sky the meteors appear to emanate from) rises on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Meteor showers do not require optical aids such as binoculars, and certainly not telescopes. These are naked eye activities. However, if the meteors are being stubborn and not forthcoming, use your binoculars to discover all those things in the sky that you just cannot see with the naked eye. Look for the schedule of astronomy programs and observing opportunities in the Big South Fork for this year on page 2, and don't forget to ask for your star chart at the visitor center. You can also download your very own free star charts each month at [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com).

Clear Skies!



# Fighting Fire with Fire in Big South Fork

By Kevin Moses, Park Ranger Law Enforcement

Can fire actually be an ally to firefighters? It’s counterintuitive to think firefighters might view fire itself as an ally, but that is exactly how Big South Fork firefighters looked at fire this past spring. Perhaps a more accurate way to describe it is that firefighters used fire as a *tool* to accomplish desired goals and objectives.

These objectives aim to better our forest and field environments here at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. National Park Service and other land managers will sometimes purposely burn portions of our parks and forests because we know that fire moving through an area can often yield beneficial results. We call this type of fire “prescribed burns,” or “prescribed fire.” Just as a doctor might prescribe a sick person medicine, land managers prescribe fire to areas that might benefit from said fire.

One example of such a benefit is a concept called nutrients recycling. When fire consumes organic material, such as downed tree limbs, leaf litter, fallen trees, and any other woody vegetation, some of the nutrients which would otherwise remain in the vegetation, is released as ash and recycled back into the soil. This creates a much more fertile soil makeup, and therefore increases the odds for germination of new forest growth.

Another way fire helps a natural woodland setting is by preventing large-scale wildfires. At first, one would think fire is damaging to the resource, but on second glance, it makes sense. It resonates with the old adage, “fight fire with fire.”

A forest area that experiences many years of full-on fire suppression will eventually build up an enormous amount of what fire managers call “ladder fuels.” These are the tree limbs, fallen tree tops, and other dead vegetation that accumulate on the forest floor. If this debris is allowed to continue accumulating unchecked, and a natural wildfire sweeps through such an area, the fire can climb the debris just like a ladder and get into the treetops, potentially creating a large, difficult-to-control crown fire, which is capable of producing much greater damage than a small, low-intensity fire that is purposely ignited by park management.

Another way fire benefits park areas is to foster species diversity. It accomplishes this several ways. First, prescribed fire encourages the colonization and maintenance of rare fire-adapted plant species by creating open spaces that support such species. Second, fire serves as a useful tool in controlling invasive exotic plant species, which are those that are non-native to the Cumberland Plateau. These unwanted plants will often displace desirable native species. Thirdly, by diversifying the plant communities in the park, fire helps to improve habitat for a wide variety of wildlife that rely on such plant diversity for food and cover.

This past March and April was a milestone period for Big South Fork NRR fire managers, in that for the first time in decades, we were able to successfully burn areas of the park that were identified as possessing high potential for benefits from fire. At the start of the spring, our intentions were to burn six separate burns of 40 to 600 acres each, totaling about 1,600 acres. These burn plots are located in Scott and Fentress Counties in Tennessee and in McCreary County in Kentucky.

Fire managers are quite pleased with this past fire season and look forward not only to next year’s season, but many more to come over the next few years. If you find yourself hiking or riding through a recently blackened forest landscape during your visit here at Big South Fork NRR, it is quite possible you will be witnessing first-hand the results of a prescribed burn. Look for new green growth, ash pits where stumps and downed logs used to be, a cleaner, more open forest floor, and for those with a highly-trained eye, look for new and rare species that perhaps you haven’t seen here before.

Smoky Bear is famous for saying “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires.” This venerable admonition still rings true today—park visitors must always be careful with fire. But land managers are beginning to realize that fire, when applied under very strict, specific parameters, does not always have to be our enemy.





---

## Black Bear Management



NPS photo

By Leslie Smith, Wildlife Biologist

In 1996 and 1997, Big South Fork NRRRA was home to an experimental release of 14 adult female black bears. This was a cooperative effort between the National Park Service, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Daniel Boone National Forest, and University of Tennessee. It was deemed an experimental release because wildlife managers and researchers were uncertain if the bears would stay in the area, and a release of this magnitude had never been documented. Since the last releases in 1997, radio-tracking of the bears continued through 2003, when the last two radio-collared bears dropped their collars.

The bears have given us some invaluable information over the years and still continue to do so. For example, we have found reproduction to be occurring with an average of three cubs per female. In addition, average size and weights of bears are generally heavier than those reported in Great Smoky Mountains National Park (our nearest established population of bears and former home of the released females). This type of information further proves that the habitat in Big South Fork NRRRA is exceptional for bears.

Evaluation and management of the program still continues. Bait station surveys are completed annually and is one method we utilize for monitoring the population. While not an exact science, these surveys consist of three cans of sardines hung in a tree in the backcountry along a transect approximately ½ mile apart. They are left for a period of five days at which point they are removed and documented as being visited by a bear, another animal, or no visit. The tell-tell sign if a visit occurred will be either that all the cans are gone, or they are on the ground with large puncture holes produced from the bear's enormous canine teeth. In addition to the bait station surveys, the park is also working cooperatively with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife on "hair snares". This method of sampling consists of tightly strung barbed-wire approximately 18" off the ground in a square formation, with bait placed in the center. Consequently, the bear will enter the square to get the bait, leaving behind samples of hair in the barbs. Through DNA analysis (much like forensic science) we can determine how many separate bears are using an individual site, their sex, and their relation to one another, if any. While this method is currently taking place only on the Kentucky portion of the park, we hope to be sampling the Tennessee side soon.

The estimated bear population in Big South Fork is uncertain, however through the bait station survey and hair snare analysis, we hope to see more accurate estimates and therefore have a greater understanding of how to manage our bears in the future. If you do have the good fortune of seeing a bear while visiting the park, please report it to a park ranger or one of the visitor centers.

---

## Hog Hunting in the Big South Fork NRRRA

By Leslie Smith, Wildlife Biologist

In 2003, Big South Fork NRRRA initiated it's first extended hog season. What does that mean? Generally, hogs are harvested inside the park only during statewide deer seasons, so basically this occurs on and off from September through January. Because the park saw the need for more hogs to be harvested, a season for hog only harvest was opened from the end of January through February. Hogs are exotic (non-native) species that compete with native species for food and cover. Not only this, but the destructive rooting behavior that hogs innately exhibit damages sensitive, threatened and endangered plants, and threatens native ground nesting birds as well.

In order to hunt hogs during the extended season, hunters are required to purchase a \$5 hog hunting permit from one of our visitor centers or at one of the local vendors outside the park. In addition, they must possess a valid, state hunting license for big game. There is no limit as to how many hogs may be taken per hunter, nor are they required to be checked in at a big game check station. However, park staff may contact hunters by telephone after the season is over to get an estimate on the success of their hunt. These telephone surveys help managers determine hog population densities throughout the park and if the extended season is helping to manage the population.

In 2004, through the phone survey, we estimate 30 hogs were harvested during the extended season. Most of these occurred on the west (Fentress County) side of the park and no hogs were harvested in the Kentucky portion of the park.

Hogs are fun but difficult animals to hunt and usually outsmart the average hunter. But if you are lucky and the wind is in your favor, you just might have some tasty tenderloin for breakfast, not to mention some great stories to tell back at the camp! Good luck!!



Photo: Wild hog and the devastation they do by rooting. NPS photos.



---

# Threatened and Endangered Species

In partnership with State and Federal agencies, the National Park Service is working to protect the rare and endangered plants and animals found on the Cumberland Plateau in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Cumberland sandwort (*Arenaria cumberlandensis*) is a small, delicate plant found only in shaded rockhouses on the Cumberland Plateau in northeast Tennessee and southeast Kentucky. The plants are very sensitive to damage by trampling that disturbs the shallow root system and compacts the fine, loose sand. As a result of trampling, rarity of habitat, and geographic isolation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Cumberland sandwort as federally endangered on June 23, 1988.

Now, at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage have begun a joint effort of physical protection and public education to protect this rare and endangered plant.

At a rock shelter known as Hippy Cave, hikers, horseback riders, and other visitors had, in recent years, frequently trampled and damaged a large population of Cumberland sandwort. In 2004, to help reduce user impacts to the site, barricades were installed to prevent direct access by horses into the rock shelter. Fences were also erected along the foot trail to direct traffic through the rock shelter while avoiding the areas where Cumberland sandwort grows.

Another example of cooperation between partnering agencies can be found along the Big South Fork River. Station Camp and No Business are both low water fords where horse trails cross the Big South Fork River. These sites are also the habitat for several species of rare and endangered fish and fresh water mussels. The rocky shoals provide ideal habitat for them to live and reproduce. These mussels, however, are easily crushed by the hoofs of horses as they cross the river.

A temporary solution has involved the delineation of crossing routes at both fords in an effort to keep horse traffic within a narrow and defined corridor. This has lessened, but not eliminated, the impact these trail crossings have on the mussel beds.

The National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service continue to cooperate to find a long-term successful solution which would serve to keep these trail crossings accessible while protecting the fresh water mussels.

As a visitor to Big South Fork, you play an important role in the protective efforts. By remaining on designated trails, you help to protect these and other rare, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals within Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Together we can make a difference!

---

# Putting the “Conserve” Back Into Conservation!

By **Juan G. Gomez, Facility Manager**  
The Organic Act of 1916 states that we must “**conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations**”. This statement is the fundamental purpose by which we steward these treasures of America. A part of accomplishing this goal is to be on the forefront of conservation. In order to accomplish this, we must demonstrate a primary example of conservation, and that is to utilize our resources to the fullest extent possible without degrading the limited resources at our disposal.

Recycling is only one method by which we can accomplish this. Recycling removes products from the waste stream that can be utilized over and over without having to expend virgin resources or extensive re-manufacturing efforts to withdraw a usable commodity. It allows us to conserve the earth’s resources responsibly. Recycling also reduces litter and the costs of solid waste disposal. We all know that paper, aluminum, glass, plastics and metals can be recycled. We can also recycle lead-acid batteries, textiles, tires, wood, yard trimmings and furnishings.

Here at Big South Fork NRRRA we will be drafting a Comprehensive Recycling Plan that will be utilized to comply with all federally mandated “Greening” initiatives. It will also be basic enough to be tailored by any park in the National Park Service. It allows the parks to come into compliance with the Service-wide Solid Waste Management Plan.

---

# Big South Fork Completes General Management Plan

This is an exciting time in the history of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Completed this spring, the Final General Management Plan (GMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will now guide the management of the park for the next 20 years and will serve as the overarching policy under which many site specific plans will now be prepared.

The Final GMP and EIS analyzes the impacts associated with four alternative approaches to managing the Big South Fork, including the agency preferred alternative. The final plan contains the alternatives and analyses which were published in the January 2003 Supplemental Draft GMP and EIS and responses to all sustentative public comments received during the public review period. These comments have all been responded to by modifying the alternatives, clarifying or updating the analyses, making factual revisions, or explaining why a comment did not warrant further action.

If you would like to obtain or to read a copy of the final General Management Plan, it is now available by a number of different means:

- Hard copies or CD-ROMs are available at the park Headquarters or by contacting: Superintendent, Big South Fork NRRRA, 4564 Leatherwood Rd., Oneida TN 37841, (423) 569-9778, or [biso\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:biso_superintendent@nps.gov). Please note that the hard copies are substantially more costly to the taxpayer; we encourage you to request a CD-ROM if you have ready access to a computer.
- The document may be viewed at public libraries in Fentress, Scott, McCreary, and Morgan counties.
- Park visitor centers at Bandy Creek and the Stearns Depot and the park Headquarters will have reading copies available.
- The document is available on-line at [www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso). Please note, however, that due to the large size of some files the GMP will not download efficiently using a dial-up connection.

---

# Resource Protection Hotline Available

In order to increase the number of backcountry “eyes and ears” helping protect the park’s valuable and often irreplaceable resources, a Resource Protection Hotline has recently been established.

Any park visitor or neighbor who witnesses what they believe to be an illegal activity such as digging arrowheads, poaching wildlife or harvesting plants, is encouraged to call the Resource Protection Hotline at (423) 569 2404 ext 505. All information will be treated confidentially. No name or phone number will be required; however, persons wishing to leave contact information may do so.

Facilities Management hopes to receive funding in the future to be able to order and set in place cluster configuration recycling containers. With the assistance of the Visitor Services and Education staff, we will draft interpretive text that will be placed on plastic placards and attached to the posts in order to educate our visiting public as to the benefits of recycling.

Our park neighbors and partners can utilize this plan to formulate their own recycling plan. It can be used to demonstrate to school children what a recycling program entails and how to go about starting their own recycling program at school.

Recycling is not a new concept. The Acoma Pueblo Indians tell an ancient story of recycling. A Pueblo Indian woman crafted clay pots that lasted for years of use. When the pots eventually broke, they were not thrown into a dump. The broken pots were crushed to a fine clay powder. The powder was then soaked to soften it to a workable, clay consistency. This recovered clay was then used to make strong and beautiful new pots.

Today, we use many materials once, and then consider them waste. Like broken pots, these materials are actually precious resources. We are all learning that we cannot continue throwing away resources in our garbage cans. Our task now is to develop again the age-old art of recycling.



---

# Beauty in Motion: The Turkey Vulture

**By Sherry Fritschi, Visitor Services and Education**

Occasionally, a visitor at one of the park’s river gorge overlooks will report seeing a hawk, an osprey, or, on rare occasion, a bald eagle soaring above the cliffs and water. Most often, the graceful flyer putting on a fantastic show is none other than TV, short for turkey vulture. This bird’s reputation for grotesque ugliness is blown away by its beautiful display of maneuverability through the air.

Uneven heating of the earth’s surface causes warm columns of air to rise above denser cool air. A vulture catches these thermals and soars to great heights in tight spirals. Updrafts created when warm air bumps into ridges and cliffs provide a good ride too. The Big South Fork River gorge with its fields, forest, water, and cliffs is the perfect environment for the turkey vulture.

A turkey vulture can slowly increase altitude without flapping its wings by setting its primary wingtip feathers at steep angles. It can glide for hours with little wing movement. From the front, the wings look like a shallow V called a dihedral. Observing wing shape is a good way to distinguish a turkey vulture. Most soaring birds hold their wings straight out.

Ornithologists have classified turkey vultures in the same order as storks and flamingoes because of similar genetics, anatomy and behavior patterns. Although these birds are meat eaters, up to 50 percent of their diets consist of vegetation.

A turkey vulture is not an eagle; however, the Cherokee Nation calls the turkey vulture “peace eagle” because it seldom kills. Occasionally, a hungry turkey vulture might steal a chick from a blue heron nest, but its hooked beak is most often used to grip and rip apart a dead animal. Strong, steady feet support the bird while it tears into carrion. A vulture likes to relax after a meal by roosting and regurgitating indigestible tidbits as pellets. Incidentally, turkey vulture droppings and pellets are disease free because the bird’s digestive system kills virus and bacteria. When a vulture eats an animal that died from illness, it unknowingly helps check the spread of disease such as anthrax. So a turkey vulture is beautiful in more ways than one!

Be careful if you are walking among trees where turkey vultures are roosting. When startled, they sometimes vomit. Yes, the unthinkable could happen to you. I was nearly whitewashed while pedaling my bicycle under a tree limb. Splat! Whew, it just missed me. Most often, turkey vultures are sociable and given a choice will perch in close proximity to people. Many turkey vultures will roost together and communicate among themselves with body language that biologists can interpret. When keen vision and sense of smell lead turkey vultures to a large carcass, they sometimes visit other roosts to spread the news and share their good fortune.

Though less common, black vultures can be seen at Big South Fork. Their bare heads are black instead of red and the undersides of the wings have white patches. Black vultures have heavier bodies and shorter wingspans than turkey vultures. They don’t soar as gracefully and need to frequently flap their wings. They are more aggressive than turkey vultures and kill small animals. Sense of smell is poorly developed in black vultures so they sometimes watch for turkey vultures circling above carcasses and join them.

While visiting an overlook, glance up as well as down. There’s a good chance you’ll see beauty in motion, the graceful turkey vulture. Don’t you wish you could join him as he soars above the gorge?



Turkey Vulture photo courtesy of animalpicturesarchive.com and don@wildlife.net.

---

# The Big Leaf Trees



Photo by W. S. Justice, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

**By Sue H. Duncan, Visitor Services and Education**

Often visitors to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area are quite surprised by the dense vegetation and variety of flora that abounds within the park. One particular question that people ask is: “What are the unusual looking trees with such huge leaves?” They describe these trees as reminding them of something from a more tropical climate rather than this area, due to their large leaves.

The tree that these folks are often referring to isn’t necessarily one variety of tree, but it is actually two. Both trees are members of the magnolia family. The big leaf magnolia and the umbrella magnolia both look very exotic and tropical among the forests of the Cumberland Plateau. Each tree has very distinctive characteristics which makes identifying them easier.

The big leaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*) has leaves that are from 15 inches up to 30 inches in length and are 6 inches to 16 inches in width. The leaves are ovate in shape and have smooth edges. At the base of each leaf there are two “ear” lobes on either side of the stem. The tree has a creamy-white, six petal

flower which blooms in late spring. These blooms are fragrant. Big leaf magnolias have large, silvery-green, hairy, buds in the winter. This tree may reach a height of 50 to 60 feet, but often people do not see the larger trees. Smaller trees or saplings are often spotted more readily as they are at eye level along the trails. Many people do not realize that these small trees are not full grown and are quite surprised when they view their parent trees.

The umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia umbellifera*) is a small to medium sized tree averaging 32 to 50 feet in size. Its leaves are 10 inches up to 20 inches in length and 5 inches to 10 inches in width. The leaves are ovate and have smooth edges, but the base of each leaf is tapered along the stem and no lobes are present. The white flowers on this tree are showy and large, but have a disagreeable odor. The leaves grow in a whorled pattern on the tree and often remind one of an open parasol or umbrella, hence its name. Terminal buds on this tree are large, pointed, and purple in color, with no bud hairs present.

Both of these magnolia trees are deciduous. This means that they lose their leaves in the fall each year. This is a very unusual trait, for most of the magnolia family are evergreen. When the leaves from these trees do begin to fall and litter the ground, they actually do look very much like litter. The brown leaves have fooled many a good-hearted soul attempting to pick up what looks to be a paper sack from along the trail.

Seed pods from both species of trees are a leathery, cone-like fruit. The fruit turns from green to pink or red at maturity and contain bright red seeds concealed under each scale of the pod. As the pod turns brown and dries, it opens and reveals the seeds inside. These fruits sometimes remind one of a miniature pineapple.

The next time you are out enjoying the park foliage, look for these trees. They are native to the Cumberland Plateau and are a part of the unique vegetation here. Please remember that collecting parts of any plant or tree is not permitted. Please help us to protect these trees and other flora species for future generations by not removing them from the park.



---

# The Trail Less Traveled

If you are looking for some quiet, less traveled trails, you should try these.

**Middle Creek Loop** - This easy trail is located on Divide Road at the Middle Creek Trailhead. It is frequently overlooked by people going to the Twin Arches or Slave Falls. This 3.5 mile trail features some nice rock shelters and large hemlock trees.

**Rock Creek Loop** - This 7.1 mile hike is moderate in difficulty. It features an old logging railroad grade, good views of Rock Creek, and the Hattie Blevins Cemetery. If you decide to go into the cemetery, do so with respect as it is private property and maintained by descendants of those buried here. The trail is accessed from Divide Road at the Rock Creek Trailhead.

**Leatherwood Loop** – If you want a more challenging hike, the 3.2 mile Leatherwood Loop might be what you are looking for. This steep trail begins at Leatherwood Ford by using a portion of the O&W Railroad Bridge trail. It leaves the river and climbs steeply to the gorge rim and a nice overlook. After traveling through open woods and along the edge of old farm fields, it steeply descends back to Leatherwood Ford.

**Kentucky Trail to Big Spring Falls** – This 7.5 mile round trip hike begins at the Blue Heron Mining Camp. Part of the Kentucky trail, it follows a portion of the old mining tramway that once hauled coal from the Blue Heron Mines. The route is relatively easy and includes access to Catawba Overlook; the destination for this hike is Big Spring Falls. Like most waterfalls in Big South Fork, it is best viewed in the spring. As a bonus, it also has a variety of spring wildflowers.

For more information about these or other trails, contact any of the rangers at Bandy Creek Visitor Center, Stearns Depot Visitor Center or at the Blue Heron Mining Camp.

---

## Back Road Driving in Big South Fork

By Howard Ray Duncan

Traveling the back roads of Big South Fork can be an enjoyable way to explore some remote areas. Many of the old roads have been improved in recent years, making them more accessible to four wheel drive vehicles. These old logging roads tend to be found on ridge tops and vary in length and condition. These backcountry routes stop at the end of the ridge and do not connect to one another. Road closures may be in the form of a gate, posts, or a ditch and berm of dirt. Do not drive around these closures! Also keep in mind that it is not permissible to open old roads that have become overgrown or naturally closed by fallen trees. Driving or operating a vehicle off an established roadway is not permitted.

If you decide to drive on the lesser maintained back roads, use good judgment and do take some precautions. Most people use their vehicles as daily transportation and don’t want to damage them. Know the capabilities of your vehicle and don’t take unnecessary risks. Getting stuck miles from help can be a great inconvenience. Cell phone coverage is not available in some areas, making it almost impossible to call for help. It is a good idea to carry a tow strap, a hand powered winch (also known as a come-a-long, power puller, etc.), and jumper cables. It is also best to travel with another vehicle so that one may assist the other if trouble occurs. By using caution and sound judgment, you can travel in remote areas safely and without incident.

All terrain vehicles (ATVs), commonly called four wheelers, motorcycles, and street legal four wheel drive vehicles are all permitted on certain routes within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. These vehicles are subject to rules that state where they may be used. Licensed, street legal, off-highway capable vehicles have access to more routes than unlicensed ATVs and dirt bikes. Used properly, these vehicles can take one to remote locations quickly, giving you more time to explore areas inaccessible to motorized use. Improper use, however, can lead to severe damage to the environment. It is the responsibility of every operator to use these vehicles safely and in accordance with rules and regulations.

It is important that operators understand the rules pertaining to off-highway vehicle use. The vast majority of routes open to off-highway use are located on ridge tops. Operators should not go beyond road closures. When Congress drafted the legislation that created Big South Fork, it specifically placed the gorge areas off limits to motorized use. The only exceptions were designated access points that corresponded to existing roads. By following the rules and being considerate of the environment and other users, everyone can have room to enjoy their particular form of outdoor recreation.

---

# Hey Kids, Become A Junior Ranger!

By Brenda Deaver, Interpretive Park Guide

In order to become a Junior Ranger, it is important for you to learn about the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Then you can help park rangers teach others how to be safe, enjoy the park, and protect it from harm! There are several activities listed below that you can do alone or with your friends, but it takes time to learn about the park. These activities may take you a few hours or days to complete. After you complete the activities, go to the Bandy Creek or Stearns Depot Visitor Center where a park ranger will ask you some questions before you are awarded your Junior Ranger Badge.

## Junior Ranger Activities

### Complete 6 of the activities below.

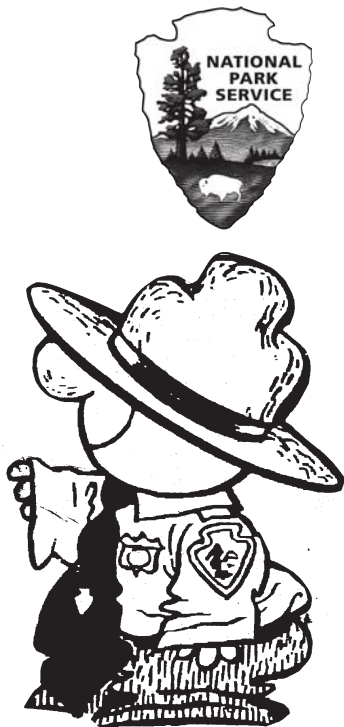
1. Hike a trail along the Big South Fork River. Name the trail.
2. Pick up litter in the park.
3. Visit the Kentucky Visitor Center at Stearns and Blue Heron. Get a cancellation stamp from the area.
4. Visit three rock shelters in the area and list them.
5. List three groups of historic people who lived here before it was a park.
6. Take a ride by horseback, mountain bike or 4-wheel drive ride into the backcountry. Name the trail.
7. Identify four kinds of trees or wildflowers that grow along the river.
8. Name two homeplaces that still remain within the park.
9. Name four animals that live here.
10. Attend a Ranger-Led Program

From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, park rangers provide fun and educational programs or hikes. Look at the bulletin boards in the campground or ask at the visitor center for the name of program, time and location. There are programs at both Bandy Creek and Blue Heron.

## Scavenger Hunt

See how many of the following things your group can locate. Remember, never take or disturb any plant, animal, land, geological formation, historic site or artifact. You might want to keep a record by taking pictures or just put a check mark by the things you see. You may need to make several visits to the park to find everything on the list. Good Luck!

- Three different kinds of leaves on a single sassafras tree
- Archeological artifacts displayed in a glass case
- Lump of coal
- Old log cabin (Which farm?)
- Live wild animal (Kind?)
- Fresh animal track
- Sandstone bluff (Color?)
- Small creek
- Wildflower (Name?)
- Protected river overlook (Name?)
- Chewed beaver stick
- Park Ranger (Name?)
- Evergreen tree (What kind?)
- Umbrella magnolia leaf
- Rock shelter
- Arch (Name?)
- Coal tippie
- Picnic table
- Canoe or kayak
- Horse
- Insect (Name?)
- Turkey vulture
- Black bear display
- Bridge (Name?)



**Have A Wonderful Time at the Big South Fork.**  
**Be Safe and Come Back Soon!**



# Discover Historic Rugby At the Big South Fork Southern Boundary

Historic Rugby is a non-profit museum and historic site founded in 1966 to carry out the restoration, preservation, and interpretation of one of the south's most intriguing historic places.

Guided interpretive tours of the public buildings are conducted daily except on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Many special events, craft and outdoor workshops and other educational programs are presented year-round. The Rugby colony was established in 1880 by famous British author and social reformer Thomas Hughes as a social and agricultural utopia. Twenty historic buildings remain today. Rugby is again growing as new "colonists" build historically compatible homes based on the original town plan. The entire Rugby village was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Historic Rugby is directly adjacent to Big South Fork, 16 miles from Jamestown, 24 miles from Oneida. Unique lodging in historic buildings and food service at the Harrow Road Café is available year round.

## Historic Rugby 2005 Calendar of Events

### IT'S WILDFLOWER TIME AT RUGBY Saturday, April 16 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Jack Carman Fee: \$12. Jack Carman, whose book WILDFLOWERS OF TENNESSEE is THE definitive guide, will lead several walks around Rugby. From Fringed Polygala to Dwarf Crested Iris, attendees will learn and see at least 25 species on the walks and attend a slide presentation and book signing by Carman in the evening after dinner. SUNLIGHT GARDENS will provide propagated wildflowers for sale.

### FESTIVAL OF BRITISH & APPALACHIAN CULTURE Saturday & Sunday, May 21 & 22

British Isles & Appalachian Music, Dancing & Storytelling  
FEATURING RENOWNED NORTH CAROLINA BALLAD SINGER & TELLER SHEILA KAY ADAMS.....75+ Traditional Arts & Crafts Folk Demonstrating & Selling Their Work...Historic Building Tours...Children's Activities.....Delicious Food  
DAILY ADMISSION: \$8 Adults, \$4 K-12 Students. TWO-DAY ADMISSION: \$12.

### 30th HISTORIC RUGBY PILGRIMAGE Saturday & Sunday, August 6 & 7

Visit 25 Or More Museum Buildings, Private Historic and New Period Homes.  
Special 125th Anniversary Activities....Period Music & Demonstrations  
DAILY ADMISSION: \$10 Adults, \$4 K-12 Students. Historic Rugby Members \$5.

### HALLOWEEN GHOSTLY GATHERING Sat., October 22, Fri., October 28 & Sat., October 29

A Calling of the Spirits from Rugby's Past & a Look at How Halloween Came to Be. Chili & Cornbread Dinner...Candle & Lantern Lit Historic Tours...Fireside Story Telling. \$18 Adults, \$8 Students (6 & Above Only). Limit 100 Each Date: Advance Reservations Required.

### CHRISTMAS AT HISTORIC RUGBY Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3

Visit Beautifully Decorated & Lamp Lit Historic Buildings....Classical Music & Actors Portraying Early Rugby Colonists - Old Fashioned Carol Singing w/Hot Wassail....Christmas Treasure Shopping....Four-Course Dinner at the Harrow Road Café. EVENT: \$8 Adults, \$4 K-12 Students; \$6 Members. DINNER: \$28. Advance Reservations Required.



Big South Fork Guide - 2005 - 12

# Friends of the Big South Fork An Organization on the Move in 2005

Active since 1994, Friends of the Big South Fork is a well-proven volunteer organization. They have cleaned up rivers, built and maintained trails, and led many other successful and important projects.

Early 2005 finds the Friends in what President Greg Love calls the "most important growth spurt in our 11 year history". With staffing of the newly completed Big South Fork Visitor Center, Tennessee Specialty License Plates, the well-loved "Parks as Classrooms" Educational Program, and several other projects on their agenda for 2005, according to Love, the group knew that the time had come to "Go Professional." Starting February 1, the group's most enthusiastic volunteer, Barbara Shoemaker of Oneida, became the Friends of the Big South Fork's first full time Executive Director.

## Creating a Network of Friends

Shoemaker will pursue the Friends' strong regional focus, working with chambers of commerce, county and municipal governments, the National Park Service, Businesses and media contacts throughout the area surrounding the BSF National River and Recreation Area. She is also working closely with the Alliance for the Cumberlands, Historic Rugby, the University of Tennessee, various watershed districts and many others—to maximize cooperation and sharing of resources here on the Plateau. The Friends share a strong belief that education and the responsible development of eco-tourism and retirement are essential components to economic development on the Cumberland Plateau. Toward that end, work is set to begin on a number of exciting programs including Parks as Classrooms, Project Learning Tree, centralized reservations for area attractions and its most comprehensive program to date—CartaVista™.



Friends Open Big South Fork Regional Visitor/Education Center February 2005 in Helenwood, Tennessee.

## Development of the CartaVista™ Educational and Tourism Exhibit

Developed in conjunction with the University of Tennessee, the \$1.1 million CartaVista™ project will digitize the entire park and surrounding area and allow educators and visitors alike to take a virtual "Fly Through", with near photographic depictions of any location on the map. CartaVista™ will also include overlays highlighting various fields of interest from archaeology and botany to photography, hiking, water quality, and many others. Extensions of the program will enable visitors to conduct a "pre-tour" of the park, choose locations of interest to them, print information about those locations, create a custom map with directions, and even rent a Global Positioning Satellite receiver to guide them along the route they have chosen. As a web-based technology, many of these activities can be completed before ever leaving the home or classroom. Thanks to the vision of Senators Frist and Alexander, late 2004 saw the announcement of a \$500,000 Federal Appropriation to begin implementing Phase I of Carta Vista in 2005.

Friends of the Big South Fork would like to thank the following visionary sponsors who have made this year's progress possible: First National Bank of Oneida, National Coal Corporation, Moth Wing Camo Corporation, and Grand Vista Hotel. Several other major sponsorships are in the works for 2005.

Events for 2005 include:

- Feb. 1—Visitor Center Opens
- May 14— Spring Planting Day
- May 21—River Clean Up
- Sept. 10—2nd Annual Wings Over the Big South Fork Fly In
- Sept. 17—Haunting in the Hills Story Telling Festival

If you would like to join the Friends of the Big South Fork, or help with any of their projects for 2005, call Executive Director Barbara Shoemaker at 423-663-4556, or visit [www.FriendsOfBigSouthFork.org](http://www.FriendsOfBigSouthFork.org).

## Yes! I want to be a Friend of the Big South Fork.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \_\_\_ \$1,000 Yahoo Falls Friend
- \_\_\_ \$500 Honey Creek Friend
- \_\_\_ \$250 Station Camp Friend
- \_\_\_ \$100 Angel Falls Friend
- \_\_\_ \$50 Blue Heron Friend
- \_\_\_ \$25 Bandy Creek Friend

